

REMARKS

The above amendment is presented to eliminate multiple dependent claims, thereby reducing PTO filing fees.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is entitled "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Favorable action on the merits is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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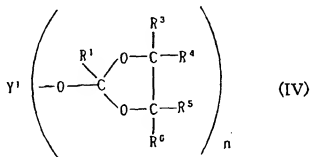
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

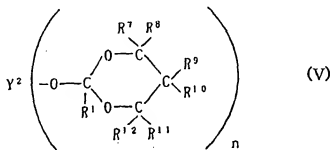
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11 and 12 have been amended as follows:

11. (Amended) the polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (IV):

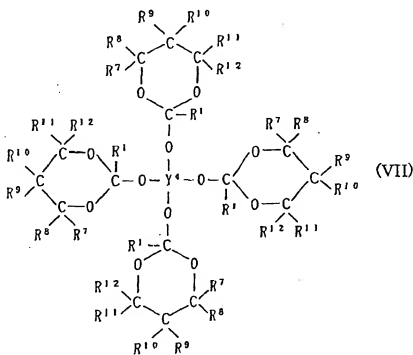


wherein Y^1 represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule; [R^1 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are the same as defined in claim 1 and 4] R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 falls in a range of 0 to 24; and R^4 and R^5 may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly; and n represents an integer of 2 to 6, or the following Formula (V):



wherein Y² represents a di- to hexavalent residue obtained by removing the following 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups from a compound having 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups in a molecule; [R¹, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4] R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² falls in a range of 0 to 24; and R⁷ and R⁹ or R⁷, R⁹ and R¹¹ may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly; and n represents an integer of 2 to 6.

12. (Amended) The polyorthoester as described in claim 1, having a structure represented by the following Formula (VII):



wherein Y⁴ represents a residue obtained by removing the following four hydroxyl groups from a compound having four hydroxy groups in a molecule; [and R¹, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and

R¹² are the same as defined in claims 1 and 4] R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² may be the same or different and each represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, or a group obtained by substituting a part of these groups with an oxygen atom, and the total of the carbon atoms in the groups represented by R⁷, R⁸, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² falls in a range of 0 to 24; and R⁷ and R⁹ or R⁷, R⁹ and R¹¹ may form a cyclic structure together with carbon atoms to which they are bonded directly.